

MINUTES OF THE FORT HOOD RETIREE COUNCIL MEETING

1. The 6 March 2006 meeting of the Fort Hood Retiree Council convened at 1200 hours in the Fort Hood Officers Club, Building 5764.

2. Membership Attendance:

a. Members Present: LTG(Ret) Taylor, Chairman; CSM(Ret) Cayton, Vice Chairman; Col(Ret) Oliver, Assoc. Member; COL(Ret) Gauer, Member; COL(Ret) Portmann, Member; COL(Ret) Somera, Member; COL(Ret) Davis, Member; CW3(Ret) Hanger, Member; CSM(Ret) Minosky, Member; SCPO(Ret) Lubasky, USN; 1SG(Ret) Fisher, Member; MSG(Ret) Dorothy R. Hayner, Member; MSG(Ret) Wood, USAF; and SFC(Ret) Evans-Quickley, Member.

b. Members Absent: MG(Ret) Meyers, Assoc. Member; LTC(Ret) Woodward, Member; 1SG(Ret) Miller, Member; MSG(Ret) Hayner, Member.

3. The Chairman called the meeting to order.

4. The Chairman announced that there was no guest speaker scheduled so that the council could discuss issues and propose future guest speakers. The Chairman opened up the meeting with old business. He stated that the Commanding General, III Corps and Fort Hood had approved the dates for the 32nd Annual Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) for 27 & 28 October 2006. He asked the council members to mark their calendars early to ensure maximum participation by the council members. The Chairman also announced that Sergeant Major of the Army Robert Hall, US Army, Retired, had graciously accepted to be Fort Hood's special guest for Retiree Appreciation Day and guest speaker for the opening ceremony. This will be SMA (Ret) Hall's last Retiree Appreciation Day as the Co-Chairman of the Chief of Staff's Army's Retiree Council.

5. The Chairman opened discussion for new business. There were three items of new business.

a. First item: proposed issues for the CSA Council. Previously submitted issues were recapped. Those issues were 1) Inequities in TRICARE Retiree Military Healthcare and 2) Permanent ID Cards for Spouses and Survivors 65 and Over. Those items will be worked at the upcoming CSA Retiree Council meeting in April. As of date, there were no issues recommended to be submitted for next year by the council members. Although issues do not need to be submitted until later in the year, the Chairman encouraged council members not to wait until the last minute and keep working to get ahead of the game.

b. Second item: nominees for Honorary Retiree for the 32nd Annual RAD. No nominees were proposed as of date. The Chairman reminded the council members that although criteria had been established to select the Honorary Retiree, exceptions could be made. Nomination forms were included in the council members' packets for their use. Because the Honorary Retiree does not have to be selected until the September 2006 meeting, he stated there is time to work on nominations.

c. Third item: guest speakers for future Retiree Council Meetings. After Council discussion, the following guest speakers were proposed. New Commanding General, III Corps (later on when he gets on board); Commanding General, OTC, BG Tucker; Chief, Pharmacy, DACH, LTC Styles; CSM, III Corps, CSM Ciotola; and Representative, Consumer Affairs Branch Manager, Ms. Bradshaw; and Texas State Veterans Cemetery Director, Mr. Walden.

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6. CSM(Ret) Cayton gave an AAFES Council update. He stated that he had spoken with the AAFES Manager reference the inability of wheel chair disability patrons to maneuver through the PX to shop. The aisles were better cleared to go down in a wheel chair, but the shopping areas (i.e. clothing racks, etc.) were very crowded and a wheelchair could not be maneuvered through the areas. He said that the manager of the Clear Creek PX said that the deficiencies would be corrected by the upcoming Saturday. CSM(Ret) Cayton stated that he was going to check to ensure the corrections were made. The Chairman directed that if the deficiencies were not corrected that a letter would be drafted to the AAFES Manager and courtesy copied to the Garrison Commander from the Council with the stated grievances that had not been corrected. During discussion, there was an additional concern brought up reference the event signs that hang in the PX are too low. If one of average height walks below them, they will be hit by the signs. CSM(Ret) Cayton acknowledged the concern and would bring it to the attention of the manager.

7. COL(Ret) Portmann updated the Council on the Health Consumer Committee Meeting. He stated that Garrison Command had dedicated a re-habilitation facility on Fort Hood. There are some DMWR money issues reference TV's for the facility, but should be a reality in the near future. The TRICARE Service Center has been newly renovated. The conversion of electronic medical records is 80% complete. The point was brought up reference the raising of fees for TRICARE and co-pays. The Chairman emphasized that congress is pushing not to let that happen. COL(Ret) Portmann stated that there were three medical issues from the Fort Hood Army Family Action Plan Conference. Two were reference the pharmacy. One was pharmacy wait times and the other was proposal for a drive through pharmacy on Fort Hood. The third issue was reference King's Daughters pulling out of TRICARE network. TRICARE is working hard to get King's Daughters back in the network. Also the pharmacy issues are being addressed and worked by DACH and will report its progress to the Garrison Commander at the Quarterly AFAP IPRs. During open discussion the Chairman stated that LTG Metz is still working the Regional Medical Center here at Fort Hood. Although he was deployed and is now leaving in the summer, it is still foremost on his agenda to obtain. It may be in name only for now and not happen on his watch, but he is definitely working toward an Army solution for Health Care at Fort Hood that will benefit all Soldiers, retirees, and family members.

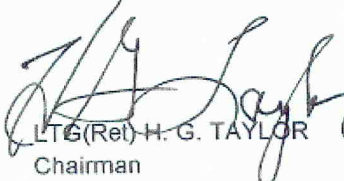
8. Mr. Hanger did not have a commissary update because the Commissary Council had not met for several months. Mr. Bishop, DOL Director, is also the acting Deputy Garrison Commander due to Ms. Turner, the Deputy Garrison Commander, has been ill. However, there was to be a meeting on Tuesday, 7 March, so perhaps meetings will start happening regularly. He also asked that if meetings were to be rescheduled to please reschedule after the 2nd Thursday of the month versus prior so that the meeting would occur after the Commissary Council had met. The Chairman said that would be kept in consideration for future meetings if they needed to be rescheduled. To show the commissary's appreciation to the council for their continued support, the Clear Creek Commissary donated commissary gift certificates to the council members.

9. SFC(Ret) Waller provided an update on the continuation of holding meetings at the Fort Hood Catering and Conference Center (FHCCC). Currently, the room charge is \$175.00 which does not include coffee (only ice water) and the conference center would not allow "brown bagging" in the meeting rooms. SFC(Ret) Waller stated that the IAG would continue to pay the room fee if the Council wanted to continue to meet at FHCCC. SFC(Ret) Waller said that she had checked a couple of other places to meet. One was a dining facility in 1st Cav that had a separate meeting room and the AAFES

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Administrative Building Conference Room. The Chairman opened discussion reference continuation of holding the Retiree Council meetings at the club or holding the meetings some where else. After open discussion, it was approved by the council to continue to study alternative places to meet and have the next meeting at the AAFES Conference Room. SFC(Ret) Waller would provide additional alternative meeting places at the next meeting for the council to discuss.

10. Before adjournment, the Chairman reminded everyone to vote, and informed the council that the next meeting is scheduled for 8 June 2006, AAFES Administration Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned at 1300 hours.


LTG(Ret) H. G. TAYLOR
Chairman


~~Approved/Disapproved~~

JOHN M. MURRAY
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff